

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 00056 051033Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /085 W
-----051041Z 077201 /16

R 051000Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0429
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 0056

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, IS, UR, AU, EALR
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN VIEWS ON SOVIET JEWISH DROPOUT PROBLEM

REF: TEL AVIV 8531

1. AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS DEALING WITH TRANSIT OF SOVIET
JEWISH EMIGES THROUGH VIENNA HAVE CONSISTENTLY TOLD
US THAT AUSTRIA COULD NOT CONTINUE TO ASSIST THESE
EMIGRES WITHOUT FUNDS RECEIVED FROM ABROAD. CHANCELLOR
KREISKY HAS NOT ADDRESSED, AT LEAST IN PUBLIC, FINANCIAL
OR OTHER PRACTICAL PROBLEMS AUSTRIA WOULD FACE WERE FOREIGN FUNDS
NOT AVAILABLE TO ASSIST EMIGRES GOING TO OTHER COUNTRIES
THAN ISRAEL. IN RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS (VIENNA A-373
OF 12 NOV 76 AND VIENNA 8864), HE FOCUSED INSTEAD
ON PRINCIPLES OF ISSUE IN SUCH CLEAR AND FORCEFUL
MANNER AS TO FORESTALL ACTION BY ISRAELIS OR OTHERS
THAT WOULD REQUIRE GOA TO ADDRESS THESE MORE PRACTICAL
MATTERS. EMBASSY NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT WITH RESPECT TO
RELATIVELY SMALL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEM FOR
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PAGE 02 VIENNA 00056 051033Z

AUSTRIA POSED BY PRESENCE OF EMIGRES TRYING TO RETURN
TO USSR, WE WERE INFORMED LAST SPRING OF KREISKY'S
CONCERN THAT NEITHER LOCAL JEWISH COMMUNITY NOR
INTERNATIONAL JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS WERE CONTRIBUTING
SIGNIFICANTLY TO THEIR CARE (VIENNA 3393).

2. EMBASSY THUS AGREES WITH VIEW EXPRESSED REFTEL
PARA 3 THAT AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR DESCRIBED IN OVERLY GENEROUS
TERMS PROBABLE AUSTRIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD DROPOUTS IN EVENT
OF AID CUT-OFF. IN FACT, HIS OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING PAST
ATTITUDES WERE QUITE MISLEADING. HAVEN AUSTRIA PROVIDED REFUGEES
IN PAST, AS NOW, WAS TEMPORARY FOR ALL BUT VERY FEW. FURTHER-
MORE, GOA DID NOT STOICALLY ACCEPT BURDENS OF ASSISTING
REFUGEES BUT CONSISTENTLY SOUGHT AND OBTAINED FUNDS
FROM ABROAD TO DEFRAY BULD OF ITS ASSISTANCE COSTS.
GOA HAS RECENTLY RECEIVED SMALL BUT BASICALLY SYMBOLIC
NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE AND CHILEANS AS PERMANENT
RESIDENTS; HOWEVER, ATTITUDE TOWARD MORE SUBSTANTIAL
IMMIGRATION IS APPARENT IN ALACRITY WITH WHICH IT HAS
WORKED WITH TRADE UNIONS AND EMPLOYERS TO REDUCE
NUMBER OF FOREIGN WORKERS IN AUSTRIA. SOCIAL AS
WELL AS ECONOMIC REASONS HAVE BEEN CITED FOR THIS
ACTION.

3. EMBASSY WOULD NOT, THEREFORE, EXPECT GOA TO
ACQUIESCE QUIETLY IN DECISIONS THAT WOULD FORCE
AUSTRIA TO ASSUME FINANCIAL OR OTHER SOCIAL AND
POLITICAL BURDENS OF ASSISTING OR ACCEPTING
SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRES WHO DO NOT GO TO ISRAEL. BUCHANAN

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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